

Remarks/Arguments:

I. Status

The Office Action dated January 8, 2010 (the “Office Action”), has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-5, 8-9, 13, and 37-44 have been canceled and claims 6, 7, 10-12, 14, and 17-21 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 6-7, 10-12, 14-21, and 30-36 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 2-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The identified antecedent basis errors for the limitations in claims 2-18 have been corrected in the amended claims. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the remaining claims has been overcome.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,421,112 of Mains et al. (hereinafter “Mains”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0030854 of Haines (hereinafter “Haines”). Claims 1-5, 8-9, and 13 have been canceled and claims 12 and 18-21 have been amended to depend from claims which the Examiner has indicated include patentable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 12 and 18-21 have been overcome.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 6, 7, 10, 11, and 14-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have rewritten claims 6, 7, 10, 11, and 14-17 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 6, 7, 10, 11, and 14-17 are in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and favorable consideration of the application.

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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April 8, 2010

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